

MINING UTAH'S HERITAGE WORKBOOK NEWS

Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program

February 1998

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT

<http://www.nr.state.ut.us/ogm/amrpage.htm>

For information about Utah's natural resources and updates on current happenings.

About the Workbook

Mining Utah's Heritage was designed to address and enhance portions of the core curriculum for the fourth grade. The AMR Program staff worked with the State Office of Education in developing the workbook.

Use the Video to Introduce the Workbook

The abandoned mine safety video, **Utah's Abandoned Mines: Stay Out and Stay Alive!**, has been placed in each elementary school in Utah. This swift-moving video features interviews with people involved in accidents at abandoned mines. The extensive footage of abandoned mines and their hazards is a good way to introduce the workbook to your class! Check with your media center, librarian or fellow teachers. If you cannot locate a video at your school, contact Jan Morse at (801)-538-5305.

Treasure House, the Utah Mining Story

An excellent documentary, **Treasure House, the Utah Mining Story**, which was aired on Channel 7, is available from Groberg Communications (801-298-8136) and KUED. It provides a wonderful background on Utah's mineral resources and why President Abraham Lincoln called Utah "The Nation's Treasure House."

Bats and Abandoned Mines

The state of Utah is home to 19 different bat species. Many of these bats use mines as places to sleep, raise their babies or hibernate during the winter. Bats are very sensitive mammals and are easily disturbed by humans. Prior to sealing abandoned mines, surveys are done to see which mines are being used by bats. Bat gates may be placed in those mines used by bats so that bats can still enter and exit their "mine homes," and the hazards presented by open mines are mitigated. Gates protect people from the dangers of abandoned mines while protecting bats from humans. Please respect these gates for what they protect and for what they protect you from.

Teamwork Pays Off

The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program (AMRP) is teaming with the state Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to close abandoned mines in Fivemile Pass. In the past, this area was a rich mining district producing gold from over 250 mines. Today, it is a popular recreation area for off-highway vehicles (OHVs). But, abandoned mines and OHVs don't mix! An OHV rider could easily drive into an unseen mine shaft and fall to the bottom, being

injured or killed. By teaming with other agencies who are working to create an OHV park, the AMRP is able to eliminate these hazards quickly and efficiently, making the area safe for recreation.

Eagle Scout Project Helps Bats

A Boy Scout from Utah county helped the AMRP through his Eagle project. He organized his troop to help sit next to mine shafts at night and watch for bats flying in and out. Mines used by bats can be closed with a gate instead of being filled with dirt. Bats are sensitive mammals and many are being disturbed as more and more people explore mines and caves. When bats are bothered too much, they leave their home forever and look for a quieter one. They are running out of undisturbed places to live. The AMRP works to allow bats to use abandoned mines for homes while still eliminating the dangers to people.

Why is Mining Important to You?

Mining is an integral part of your everyday life. The slogan "if it wasn't grown, it was mined" is true. Think about all the things you use everyday: your coffee mug is either made of clay or plastics, both of which come from materials taken from the earth. Your car, telephone, computer, your lightweight mountain bike--all couldn't be made without raw materials that come from mining. Mining can't occur without some environmental impact. But today's mining operations are required to have permits which guarantee that all the adverse impacts will be mitigated or cleaned up. If we are to live the lifestyle to which we have become accustomed, mining has to happen. The current mining industry is not the same industry that created the abandoned mines which present such a physical safety hazard to the public. Call the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program at (801)-538-5305 for ideas about field trips, videos, or classroom activities that you can use.

Do You Need To Update Your Workbook Numbers or Teacher Contacts?

This year we contacted many elementary schools to update fourth grade teacher's names and get an accurate count of students. **Give us a call each fall to update your numbers or contacts again.** Call or write Jan Morse, Educational Coordinator for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program at the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 W. North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801 Phone 801-538-5305.

